

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, Examiner Vu's courtesy and professionalism in conducting a telephonic interview on May 10, 2004, during which the present Amendment was discussed. It is Applicants' understanding that the present Amendment would place this application in condition for allowance.

At the time of the Final Office Action dated April 6, 2004, claims 1-17 were pending in this application. Of those claims, claim 5 has been rejected, and claims 6-16 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b). Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-4 and 17.

Claims 5 and 17 have been amended. Specifically, claim 17 has been amended to address an informality identified by the Examiner on page two of the Office Action. Claim 5 has been placed into dependent form to depend from allowable claim 1. In the Amendment filed October 28, 2003, claim 5, which was previously presented as a dependent claim from claim 1, was placed in independent form by including all the limitations of claim 1. Thus, by placing claim 5 back into dependent form, Applicants respectfully submit that no new issue has been raised by the present amendment.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon Akira in view of Tao

Since claim 5 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 1, Applicants submit that claim 5 is also allowable over the applied prior art.

Applicants have made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the prior art, and it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. However, Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. Accordingly, and in view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants hereby respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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